

What is claimed is:

1. A method for pre-fetching an audio signal for a user, the method comprising:
 - establishing a telephone call with a user of an audio web telephone system;
 - providing a system greeting;
 - determining a user profile of the user;
 - retrieving one or more audio signals from an Internet protocol ("IP") network based on the user profile while the user is listening to the system greeting;
 - storing the one or more retrieved audio signals;
 - obtaining a request for an audio signal from the user;
 - retrieving the requested audio signal to the user from the stored one or more retrieved audio signals; and
 - converting the requested audio signal to a packet based signal conforming to a telephony packet protocol.
2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 - providing a telephony interface module;
 - wherein the step of retrieving the requested audio signal further comprises storing, in a buffer in the telephony interface module the requested audio signal; and
 - wherein the converting step further comprises converting by the telephony interface process, the requested audio signal stored in the buffer to a packet based signal conforming to a telephony packet protocol.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining further comprises accessing a file listing desired audio signals based on input entered by the user.

1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining further comprises accessing a file
2 listing desired audio signals based on past actions by the user.

1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the audio signal is a streamed audio signal.

1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the telephony packet protocol conforms to one of a H.323
2 and a SIP communications standard.

1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of establishing further comprises originating, by
2 the user a phone call to the audio web telephone system.

1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of establishing further comprises originating, by
2 the audio web telephone system a phone call to the user.

9. A method for pre-fetching an audio signal for a plurality of users, the method comprising:

determining a trend profile of the plurality of users;

retrieving one or more audio signals from an IP network base on the trend profile of the
plurality of users prior to establishing a telephone call with one user of the plurality of users;

storing the one or more retrieved audio signals;

establishing a telephone call from a user of an audio web telephone system;

obtaining a request for an audio content from the user;

retrieving the requested audio content to the user from the stored one or more retrieved
audio contents; and

converting the requested audio signal to a packet based signal conforming to a telephony
packet protocol.

10. The method of claim 9 further comprising:

providing a telephony interface module;

wherein the step of retrieving the requested audio signal further comprises storing, in a buffer in the telephony interface module the requested audio signal; and

wherein the converting step further comprises converting by the telephony interface process, the requested audio signal stored in the buffer to a packet based signal conforming to a telephony packet protocol.

11. The method of claim 9 wherein the step of determining further comprises:

accessing a plurality of files, each file listing desired audio signal based on input entered by each user of the plurality of users;

identifying desired audio signals identically listed in two or more of the files.

12. The method of claim 9 wherein the step of determining further comprises:

accessing a plurality of files, each file listing desired audio content based on past actions by each user of the plurality of users; and

identifying desired audio signals identically listed in two or more of the files.

13. The method of claim 9 wherein the audio signal is a streamed audio signal.

14. The method of claim 9 wherein the telephony packet protocol conforms to one of a H.323 and a SIP communications standard.

15. The method of claim 9 wherein the step of establishing further comprises originating, by the user a phone call to the audio web telephone system.

16. The method of claim 9 wherein the step of establishing further comprises originating, by the audio web telephone system a phone call to the user.

17. An audio web telephone system for pre-fetching an audio signal, the system comprising:

2 a telephony gateway in communication with a public switched telephone network
3 (“PSTN”), the telephony gateway configured to receive a telephone call from a user using a
4 telephony device;

5 an Internet protocol (“IP”) network;

6 an audio browser comprising:

7 a content retrieval module in communication with the IP network, the content
8 retrieval module configured to retrieve one or more audio signals from the IP network
9 based on a profile of the user; and

10 a telephony interface module in communication with the telephony gateway for
11 communicating with a telephony device of the user and in communication with an IP
12 network to receive the one or more audio signals, the telephony interface configured to
13 translate an IP-based signal of the one or more audio signals to a telephony packet-based
14 signal of the one or more audio signals, thereby providing an audio message to the user
15 via the telephony device; and
16 a web cache configured to store the one or more audio signals.

17 18. The system of claim 17 wherein the content retrieval module further comprises one of
18 text-to-speech module and streaming media module.

1 19. The system of claim 17 wherein the audio browser further comprises a navigation
2 module.

1 20. The system of claim 19 wherein the navigation module further comprises one of speech
2 recognition module and touch tone (DTMF) recognition module.